

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO C. DIXON OSBURN—

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to C. Dixon Osburn, co-founder and executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network for 13 years. Dixon recently left the helm of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, and today I recognize and commend him for the contributions he has made to our nation's Armed Forces and to our nation's enduring goal of freedom and equality under the law for all Americans.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is a non-profit legal aid and advocacy organization founded in 1993 to assist service members living under the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" statute that became the law in my first months of serving in the United States Congress. Under Dixon's leadership, the organization has responded to more than 8,000 requests for assistance, and continues today to be a leader of the national movement to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

I am proud to have worked with Dixon Osburn toward the goal of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This law has resulted in the discharge of more than 11,000 service members from our Armed Forces, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. It is an affront to the patriotism and talent of the over one million lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans estimated to have served in our nation's Armed Forces to date.

I am proud to serve as the sponsor of legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and I commend Dixon Osburn for all he has done to help lay the ground work for the passage of this important legislation.

HONORING THE CITY OF KILLEEN
ON ITS 125TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, the City of Killeen, Texas celebrates its 125th birthday, today, May 15th, 2007. The City of Killeen was born May 15, 1882, when the Santa Fe Railroad extended its line westward. Named for Frank P. Killeen, an official of the railroad in Galveston, some believe that Killeen may have been among the railroad dignitaries on the train that arrived to mark the beginning of the town, but it has never been confirmed. The town of about 300 people became a shipping point of the area for agricultural products, cotton in particular.

In the next 60 years, the city prospered and grew to over 1,200 people. But in 1942, this small railroad town became home to military post Camp Hood. The military camp's impact

was tremendous more than quintupling Killeen's population in its first few years.

After World War II, the Army was looking for a place to train soldiers in tank destroyer tactics, and Killeen fit the bill. Camp Hood was named for Confederate General John Bell Hood. The initial installation covered 160,000 acres; most of Killeen's best farming land, forcing many families from their homesteads. In 1950, the camp was declared a permanent post changing its name to Fort Hood.

Killeen was now a military town, so its goal became to make it the best town for military families to live. Supporting our soldiers and their families is still the top priority today.

The town and the fort grew together. Killeen worked to develop infrastructure that would incorporate the military base and its needs. Immediate needs were water leading to the construction of Belton Lake and later, Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir; the construction of better highways to meet military and civilian travel needs; major construction to provide housing; and an accompanying growth in retail business.

This small agriculture turned railroad turned military town now has a population of over 100,000 people and is bustling with commerce. Killeen has a young, diverse populous served by good schools and affordable housing and will continue to thrive in its next 125 years.

RECOGNIZING THE TUSKEGEE AIR-
MEN IN CELEBRATION OF
OBERLIN, OHIO'S JUNETEENTH
CEREMONIES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen who were recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, specifically seven men being honored by their home community of Oberlin, Ohio in its annual Juneteenth celebration: Norman E. Proctor, Wayman E. Scott, Ferrier H. White, William Young, Gilbert Cargill, Perry Young, and William L. Williams, Jr.

On March 29, 2007, we were privileged to be witnesses to history as the largest group ever to be awarded a Congressional Gold Medal was honored in the Capitol rotunda. The elder men and their families who joined us that day were there not only to be feted for their own achievements, but represented dozens more of these gallant heroes who could not be there. I am proud that many residents in our own Ninth Congressional District of Ohio were part of this elite cadre of men.

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen continues to unfold, for they were truly unsung heroes of their time. Their outstanding service during World War II became legendary. Even while they fought a common enemy in foreign lands, they also fought racism at home. Despite dis-

crimination they helped to tear down racial barriers in the U.S. armed services. History books tell the story that no U.S. military pilot was African-American prior to World War II. Eventually, in 1941, guided by leaders of the African-American civil rights movement the United States Congress directed the Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit. In June of that year, the 99th Fighter Squadron was formed at the Tuskegee Institute, a well-regarded university founded by national leader Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama. The squadron was placed under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of the few African-American West Point graduates.

During World War II the Tuskegee Airmen flew escort for heavy bombers, established an impressive combat record, and often entered combat against greater numbers of superior German aircraft. By war's end, the unit was credited with shooting down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft and destroying numerous fuel dumps, trucks and trains. The squadrons of the 332nd Fighter Group flew more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions.

The unit was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission flown on March 24, 1945, escorting B-17s to bomb the Daimler-Benz tank factory at Berlin, Germany, an action in which its pilots destroyed three Me-262 jets in aerial combat. The meritorious individual achievements of the pilots were also recognized. Together, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, seven Silver Stars, fourteen Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals. From 1940 to 1946, 992 pilots were trained as Tuskegee Airmen. Of these, 445 went overseas and 150 lost their lives in service to our Nation and freedom's cause.

Booker T. Washington once noted that "A life is not worth much of which it cannot be said, when it comes to its close, that it was helpful to humanity." The corps of airmen who hailed from the school Mr. Washington founded most assuredly fulfilled that destiny. Our world remains profoundly grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on May 9th, during rollcall vote 318, on final passage of H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization bill, I was detained and unable to reach the House floor in time to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On May 14, because of business in Colorado, I was not present for the following three votes:

Rollcall vote 342, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999—had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Rollcall vote 343, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 223, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims—had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall vote 344, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 385, recognizing National AmeriCorps Week—had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

FREEDOM FOR ROLANDO JIMÉNEZ
POSADA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rolando Jiménez Posada, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Jiménez Posada is a lawyer and a director of the Democratic Human Rights Center. As a pro-democracy activist, Mr. Jiménez Posada has devoted himself to portraying the genuine terror of life in totalitarian Cuba. Because of his brave commitment to freedom for the Cuban people and his activities as a pro-democracy activist, the regime began by firing him from his job.

Mr. Jiménez Posada has been detained and threatened numerous times over the past years. On December 10, 2001, while taking part in a peaceful celebration to observe the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he and several others were beaten and pushed into police vehicles and then discarded in remote areas as a means of psychological torture. Amnesty International reports that in July 2002 Mr. Jiménez Posada was threatened at his home after handing out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Later, the tyrant's thugs told him that he would be imprisoned if he continued carrying out public activities in support of Cuba's political prisoners.

Despite harassment and the continuous threats, Mr. Jiménez Posada never wavered in his conviction. On April 25, 2003, he was arrested and thrown in the gulag on accusations of “disrespecting the commander” (the tyrant) and “revealing state secrets”. For 4 years, he languished in sub-human conditions awaiting “formal charges” and a “trial” for his “crime” of believing that all men have an inherent right to live in freedom.

On April 6, 2007, Mr. Jiménez Posada was “sentenced” to 12 years in a second secret trial in less than a week. His family and loved ones were never notified of his trial date, and when he even so much as attempted to voice concerns about the lack of defense counsel he was summarily thrown into a dungeon once again and prohibited all forms of legal defense. Let me be clear, Mr. Jiménez Posada rejects the gangster regime's constant propaganda and its lies. For that reason, he languishes in the most infernal conditions in the tyrant's dungeons.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Jiménez Posada suffers in the repulsive squalor of the totalitarian regime's gulag because he believes in truth and fundamental human rights for the Cuban people. It constitutes a crime of the highest order that a mere 90 miles from our shores, honorable men and women are jailed in dun-

geons simply for their desire to make known the truth of Cuba's tragic reality and for believing that all Cubans are deserving of human rights. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rolando Jiménez Posada and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO LISA RAE AUSTGEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to remember one of northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Lisa Rae Austgen of Lowell, Indiana. Lisa's numerous contributions to her community are worthy of the highest admiration, especially her service as the director of the Challenger Center of Northwest Indiana in Hammond, Indiana. Lisa passed away on Friday, May 11, 2007, and following services at the Sheets Funeral Home in Lowell, she will be laid to rest on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at Plum Grove Cemetery, also in Lowell.

Lisa was an integral part of the success of the Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana. Housed on the Purdue University—Calumet campus in Hammond, Indiana, the Challenger Learning Center provides a worthwhile educational resource to area schools. Under Lisa's direction, this 8-year old program has opened the window to space exploration to students who might otherwise have no exposure to our final frontier.

Lisa's passion for the Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana is entwined into the legacy of this program. Completely devoted to improving and modernizing educational opportunities for children, Lisa created programs at the center that simulated space missions, integrating information provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, into real-life missions controlled and operated by students. These missions not only offered students the chance to experience life as astronauts, but also taught valuable life skills, such as teamwork and cooperation, that they are able to apply to other facets of their academic development.

Thanks to Lisa's selfless dedication to actively pursuing funding for the center, thousands of students throughout the First Congressional District have had the unique opportunity to participate in the programs at the center which instill and increase students' enthusiasm for science, math, and technology. Further, her innovative approach to education fomented a genuine excitement among the students' attitudes toward math and science. Lisa was truly the backbone of the Challenger Learning Center and will be sorely missed by all the individuals with whom she worked so diligently to provide this resource to the region.

Lisa is survived by her loving husband, Tom; two sons: Ethan and Ryan; one daughter, Cassie Karney; mother, Karen Stover of Elwood, IN; father, Max (Mary) Stover of Kokomo, IN; one brother, Mike (Billie) Stover of Elwood, IN; one sister, Jennifer (Shaun) Boetijer of Galveston, IN; and several nieces and nephews. Lisa also leaves to cherish her memory many other family members and

friends who will forever remember her devotion to, not only her community, but to her family as well.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Lisa Austgen for her outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to the young people of northwest Indiana is worthy of the highest commendation. Lisa's selflessness was an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to have represented her in Congress.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of beginning the process to redeploy our troops in the coming months.

I first began calling for troop redeployment early last year when—despite the removal of Saddam Hussein, significant training of Iraqi police and army units, and the opening for a potential democracy in the Middle East—it became clear, it was time for a new direction in Iraq. I called for our troops to be redeployed within the year as it had become all too evident that they would be caught in the middle of escalating sectarian violence if they stayed. I urged the administration to adopt the recommendations of the Iraq study group to get the most stable result, but the administration rejected that advice and escalated the war.

Yet today, as violence in Iraq has only gotten worse with the number of U.S. dead and wounded continuing to grow and countless numbers of Iraqis dying in what has become a full blown civil war, this Administration tries to impose a military solution that cannot work. The escalation, which this administration now says will last until next spring, is simply the wrong way to go. Let us serve our men and women fighting overseas and recognize their sacrifices by charting a new course in Iraq.

Over the coming months, we must begin a responsible withdrawal of our troops. Only by moving forward with a redeployment of our troops can we provide the teeth necessary to force the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government to implement the benchmarks they set themselves, including de-bathification, minority rights, and sharing oil revenue.

I fully support funding for our troops as we scale down our operations in Iraq. I also believe the United States must stay engaged, leaving a limited number of forces to hunt down Al Qaeda and other terrorist operatives, help train Iraqi forces, and maintain a presence in neighboring countries.

It is just as important for this administration to start getting serious about a diplomatic offensive. I believe it must work harder in coordination with Iraq's neighbors and other leading countries to help the Iraqis settle their political differences and provide support for the reconstruction efforts.

By bringing the vast majority of our troops home in the coming months we will show both the Iraqis and the world that we are serious, that we believe the military mission is done, and that it is time for the Iraqis to take accountability for their country.

Mr. Speaker, by voting to redeploy in the coming months, I vote for accountability in Iraq. We can delay no longer. As a Congress we have a responsibility to support the troops, to honor our commitment to veterans, hold the Iraqi government accountable, and continue to press the President to change course and end this war.

I have made this clear before, and I will repeat it again here, today. Too many lives are at stake: I have crossed the Rubicon on this war.

Yet the President has chosen another path. While the American people continue to throw their hands in the air, this administration continues to ignore the painful consequences of its disastrous strategy. With his own veto last week, the President made clear his strategy will not change—unless we do something about it, here today.

We all know our troops will do anything their country asks—but let us not ask them to sacrifice everything for the wrong mission. We have a responsibility to get it right.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEECHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECT HEAD START

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Beecher Community School District Project Head Start. A community celebration is planned for Friday, May 18th in Flint, Michigan. The celebration will be attended by alumni, current and former staff, parents, students and other members of the community.

The Beecher Community School District is a delegate program of the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Over the past 40 years the Beecher Head Start program has served over 6,000 students. It is a comprehensive program providing medical, dental, nutrition, and child development. The teachers and social workers make home visits to assess the needs of the child and work to fully involve parents in the child's progress. This year 357 pupils benefited from participation in the program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Beecher Community School District Project Head Start on 40 years of successfully preparing youngsters for school and enhancing the social and reasoning skills of thousands of students.

THANKING TINA TATE FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the career and personal achievement

of one of the House's own—Tina Tate, who will retire on May 17 as the Director of the House Radio and Television Gallery after 34 years of service to this wonderful institution.

During the last three and one-half decades, Tina has worked tirelessly with the People's House and the media to chronicle the sometimes tumultuous but always lively day-to-day history of the Congress. She has gracefully assisted Democrats and Republicans in their interaction with the press during a period when technological advances changed the manner in which the media informed the American people about their government.

In 1969, Tina moved from her native Georgia to Washington, DC, with her husband and young son. Three years later, during the Nixon Administration and Carl Albert's Speakership, she was hired as the first female employee of the House Radio and Television Gallery. At that time, there were only three national television news organizations, and it was still one year before CBS radio took the bold step of launching a "news on the hour" service.

In 1981, she was selected Superintendent of the Radio TV Gallery—the first female to head that office. This was the first year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency and the fifth year of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill's service as Speaker. Since then she has overseen the historic coverage of the transition of power in the House, first from Democratic to Republican hands in 1994, and then a return to Democratic governance in 2006.

During her service, Tina served five Speakers of the House, guiding the House and those who cover it with integrity, honesty and a desire to help all sides succeed in a rapidly changing, frequently challenging environment.

Madam Speaker, Tina has left her mark on Congress and those who cover us for the people. For the press, she has been an advocate and steady hand in working with Congress to expand openness and access. For Members of Congress, she has been a faithful guardian of the institution's interests and the precedents that protect this body.

In addition to helping reporters gather news within the halls of Congress, Tina and her office have helped more than 5,000 members of independent radio and television organizations cover every national political convention. That makes sense, since once a nominee became President she oversaw their subsequent State of the Union Addresses.

Tina not only arranged logistics, she innovated. She developed new platforms for coverage, whether that be utilizing Statuary Hall to allow Members to talk to national and local media, or paving the way for new technologies like HDTV to find their place in the coverage of newsworthy events. She has had a hand in making all of this work and finding new ways to open up our government.

Tina's contribution will continue into the future. Since 2000, she has been working to establish a necessary and appropriate foothold for the electronic media in the Congressional Visitor's Center. As the technology and press have changed in 34 years, so have their needs and the needs of Members of Congress. She foresaw that growth and has worked with us to make the House successful in the years to come.

Let me close by thanking Tina for her service, friendship and gracious guidance. She

leaves the House of Representatives the better for her service.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC., AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc., of Milford, Connecticut, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health needs of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded and so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990s by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its 50 year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO SONIA GUTIÉRREZ

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to take this moment to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founder and acting director of the Carlos Rosario School here in Washington, DC, Ms. Sonia Gutiérrez.

Carlos Manuel Rosario was the founder of the Program of English Instruction for Latin Americans in 1970, and was based out of the Columbia Heights neighborhood here in Washington, DC. In 1972, he met a woman named Sonia Gutiérrez, a professional educator who had just recently moved to Washington from Puerto Rico, and persuaded her to work for PEILA.

In October 1972, Ms. Gutiérrez became the Director of PEILA and transformed the small, underfunded English as a Second Language (ESL) program into a comprehensive adult education program. In 1974, the Office of Right to Read of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated it as one of the best literacy programs in the nation.

At Ms. Gutiérrez's request in 1992, the city council renamed the school after Carlos Rosario, who founded PEILA. The program provides 4,500 students per year with the necessary language, cultural, vocational and job skills to become functional and productive members of society. Their current waiting list stands at 2,000.

The school became a national and international model, and delegations from other states and other nations frequently visited the center to review its operations and curriculum, with hopes of replicating the success of the program.

In 1996, the District of Columbia faced a financial crisis that brought about the elimination of all DC Public Schools adult education programs, including the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center. Ms. Gutiérrez vowed to rebuild the school for the benefit of her students and her community.

From August 1996 to March 1997, Ms. Gutiérrez worked tirelessly out of the basement of her home and raised \$100,000 dollars from local foundations to reopen the school as the non-profit Carlos Rosario International Career Center. The new school opened its doors in April 1997 with Ms. Gutiérrez as Executive Director & Founder.

Realizing that there were still many in the community who were not being served, Ms. Gutiérrez actively sought for Public Charter School funding to increase the number of classes and opportunities available. She succeeded and in 1998 the school became the first Adult Public Charter School in the nation.

Today, the non-profit Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School provides more than 1,200 students with English as a Second Language, GED in Spanish and English, courses in different areas of technology, citizenship classes, culinary arts, family literacy and Spanish classes.

Ms. Gutiérrez has also been very involved in the social and economic development of the Latino Community. In 1977, she founded the Council of Latino Agencies. She was instrumental in establishing the Mayor's Office on

Latino Affairs and presided over the Latino Festival. She is the past President of the Metropolitan Association of Adult and Continuing Education and also for both DC Commission for Women and the Latino Community Development Commission.

These are just a few of her accomplishments as a community organizer and leader. Ms. Gutiérrez should be an inspiration to us all, and should serve as a reminder that one person can make a difference in the lives of many.

I am honored to have a moment to recognize her 35 years of service to the Latino community of Washington, DC.

HONORING ST. PAUL YWCA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the St. Paul YWCA for its 100 years of providing hope, opportunity, and a community gathering place for the residents of St. Paul.

Founded in 1907 by a group of dedicated young women who moved to St. Paul to look for employment opportunities in the factories and mills, the St. Paul YWCA and its programs have continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. The first YWCA was constructed on Fifth Street in downtown St. Paul with a gymnasium, club, classrooms, auditorium, and a 100-bed residence. Since its beginning, the YWCA has maintained its commitment to serve and support women by providing programs in education, business skills, home arts and crafts, and physical fitness.

Over the years, the St. Paul YWCA has helped to foster other community initiatives and organizations. It provided office and meeting space for organizations such as Campfire Girls and the League of Women Voters, and later helped to spur the beginning of community agencies such as the Hallie O. Brown Center, Travelers Aid, International Institute of Minnesota, and Capitol Community Services. The YWCA was a pioneer of the first Festival of Nations grand opening in 1932.

During the Great Depression, the St. Paul YWCA helped to build up the community by offering job assistance and counseling for women in business and industry. Similar efforts were undertaken during World War II, when the YWCA provided support for women entering the labor force as well as support for servicemen and women through the USO and relief efforts.

In the second half of the 20th century, the St. Paul YWCA expanded its community outreach by offering educational and recreational programs, including housing projects as well as emergency shelter for homeless women and children in the state of Minnesota.

In the first 7 years of the 21st century, the YWCA has risen to new opportunities, serving more than 6,000 people through its programs that include wellness services, supportive housing, long-term mentoring, childcare, youth development programs, volunteer services, and community programming. In addition, the YWCA has served over 350 schools, commu-

nity and government agencies, service providers, and businesses through its programs. I look forward to celebrating YWCA's many successes in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the founders of the St. Paul YWCA, its staff, board members, and volunteers, and its delivery services that have made a difference for the lives of others, I am pleased to submit this statement for the Congressional Record recognizing the 100th anniversary of the St. Paul, MN, YWCA.

HONORING THE "WELCOME HOME A HERO" VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN AT THE DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON ITS THIRD ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the United States Army's Personnel Assistance Point at DFW Airport, the North Texas Commission and to DFW Airport's dedicated staff and thousands of community volunteers for reaching the third anniversary of the "Welcome Home a Hero" volunteer campaign.

In June 2004, the DFW International Airport and the North Texas Commission organized the "Welcome Home a Hero" volunteer campaign to honor and serve the brave men and women of the U.S. Army who travel through the DFW Airport on leave for Rest and Recuperation (R&R). The campaign has developed into one of the largest and most respected ongoing community initiatives in North Texas and the U.S. The campaign involves a wide array of business, civic and volunteer organizations, including the USO, churches, corporations, chambers of commerce, the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America and many veterans groups. "Welcome Home a Hero" has been so successful that it has been honored with the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and it has received hundreds of messages of gratitude from our servicemen and women who appreciate the patriotism and hospitality of DFW Airport and its loyal volunteers in North Texas.

This year more than 500,000 U.S. soldiers will have passed through the airport and participated in the R&R program and "Welcome Home a Hero" campaign. When these courageous soldiers arrive they are greeted with a warm reception and the thankful words of fellow Americans who wish to honor the enormous sacrifices made by all of our men and women in uniform.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize all those who have made the DFW Airport and Texas an emblem of patriotism to countless troops from around the nation. I congratulate the "Welcome Home a Hero" campaign for three great years and I am proud to witness the raw emotion and thanksgiving that emanates from both the soldiers and those who come here to celebrate their resolve.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS ME-
MORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 291, a resolution that commemorates and observes Peace Officers' Memorial Day, which honors law enforcement officers and those killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives daily to protect the citizens of this Nation and sadly 143 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in 2006. Next week, thousands of law enforcement officers will come to Washington, DC, to pay their respects to their fallen fellow officers at the National Law Enforcement Memorial. As a former police officer, I also pay tribute to law enforcement officials who died in the line of duty in 2006 and continue to honor those police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As a proud member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I strongly support critical funding for programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, to hire additional police officers and help law enforcement acquire the latest crime-fighting technologies. I will continue to be a strong supporter of the law enforcement community and will advocate on behalf of public safety in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of our courageous law enforcement officers, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and paying respect to our valiant heroes. As a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 291, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLAR
BEAR PROTECTION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will close the polar bear loophole and prohibit U.S. citizens from bringing sport hunted polar bear trophies from Canada into the United States. I call on my colleagues to support the Polar Bear Protection Act, which if passed, will help conserve and protect one of the most beloved American icon species by discouraging U.S. citizens from contributing to their decline through sport hunting.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 established a moratorium on the importation of marine mammals and marine mammal products, including the importation of all sport hunted marine mammals such as seals, walrus and polar bears. But in 1994, Congress enacted an exemption to this ban and allowed American sport hunters to bring home polar bear trophies from Canada for their personal use. There is no other such exemption in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This exemption has had the effect of increasing Canadian polar bear deaths by U.S. sport hunters.

In 1994 the polar bears' survival was not known to be at risk. Today, we know their future is precarious. Polar bear populations are facing threats previously unprecedented in the history in the Arctic. The polar bear is dependent on sea ice for survival—it relies on the ice for hunting, breeding and rearing its young. Yet as a result of climate change, Arctic sea ice is receding at a rate even a non-scientist can observe, rapidly enough for polar bears to feel the impacts. An unknown number of these magnificent creatures—which can swim at least 50 miles—have drowned and are starving. Populations are changing their distribution, bringing them closer to human villages and exposing them to greater risk of negative interactions with people as they desperately search for food. Leading scientists project that the Arctic may be completely free of sea ice in the summer as early as 2040. This has disastrous implications for polar bears.

In July 2005, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) released its quadrennial report, which reviewed the status of polar bears. Although the world population estimate remains at 21,500–25,000, in fact many populations are “data deficient,” due to the difficulties of studying this species in its remote, harsh habitat. At least some populations are declining and more may be. The IUCN PBSG concluded that the species should be upgraded from “a species of least concern” to “vulnerable,” based on the “likelihood of an overall decline in the size of the total population of more than 30 percent within the next 35 to 50 years.” It further concluded that the principal cause of this decline is global warming, with pollution an additional negative influence. For the first time, they expressed a need for caution when determining hunting quotas.

The U.S. Department of the Interior has confirmed that warming temperatures and the receding of sea ice in the Arctic pose a threat to polar bears and has concluded that polar bears could be endangered within 45 years. Based on the threats posed to polar bears, the Interior Department proposed that polar bears be listed under the Endangered Species Act as “threatened” on December 27, 2006. As many of you know, I actively have supported the listing of polar bears on the Endangered Species List. I feel strongly that such a listing is vital to the bears' survival. I also feel strongly that sport hunting at this time is an additional unnecessary burden that these beleaguered bears can ill afford.

More than half of the world's polar bears are in Canada and most of these are in the territory of Nunavut. In 2005, Nunavut increased its polar bear hunt quotas by almost 30 percent without scientific basis, despite documented declines in some populations and the increased threats to polar bears from the effects of climate change. The increase was based on anecdotal accounts that more bears were seen near villages; however, this increase in sightings likely was the result of hungry bears being drawn to village dumps than an actual increase in bear numbers. As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed concerns with this increase in quotas. Indeed, I am concerned that the money generated by American trophy hunters in Nunavut was a motivating factor in this quota increase.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also acknowledges that at least five polar bear popu-

lations, of which four are hunted, have poor and/or inadequate information on population statistics. It admits that four populations are possibly being over-harvested, posing conservation challenges for the bear.

Some of my colleagues here today may have supported the polar bear trophy importation exemption in 1994. I recognize that the landscape was different then, when many polar bear populations appeared sound. However, circumstances have dramatically changed. Seventeen years ago it was inconceivable to think that we could envision a world without these magnificent animals. Now, in 2007, we are learning that polar bear extinction could become a reality. While long-term action clearly is required to address the significant environmental factors negatively affecting polar bear survival, immediate action can and must be taken to control direct human-caused mortality, including addressing the harmful effects of U.S. trophy hunting.

I hope you all agree that contributing to the mortality of these bears from unnecessary sport hunting is no longer justified. We need to eliminate the exemption that allows the importation of polar bear trophies into the United States. The Polar Bear Protection Act will further polar bear conservation at a time when these animals need it most. I urge my colleagues to join me by supporting this legislation, and I hope that the Natural Resources Committee will hold hearings on polar-bear conservation and this bill.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2237, PROVIDING FOR RE-DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND DEFENSE CONTRACTORS FROM IRAQ; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2206, U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2207, AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND WESTERN STATES EMERGENCY UNFINISHED BUSINESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure before us today because it provides a clearly needed change in course in Iraq. The President has placed roughly 160,000 of our troops in a highly vulnerable position—refereeing a civil war—while the various factions in Iraq have not made adequate progress toward reconciliation. The needed political reconciliation among these groups will not happen until we make it clear to the Iraqis that our occupation is coming to an end.

But our open-ended occupation of Iraq is not only not working; it's working against us. It undermines our fight against al-Qaeda and provides extremists a rallying point. We have every indication that al-Qaeda is resurgent in Pakistan, that bin Laden finds himself stronger

than ever, and that al-Qaeda-linked groups are growing in number and audacity. We need to responsibly redeploy our troops from Iraq so we can better fight this growing threat.

I initially had concerns with some of the language in this measure regarding funds for troops deployed to Iraq since January of this year. But after examining the bill more closely, I do not believe any provision in this bill would alter funding in a way that would put troops currently in the field at risk. The bottom line is that we must send a clear message to the President that we must change direction in Iraq and redeploy our troops.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972. Thirty-five years ago, a college applicant could be denied admission simply because she was a woman.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed that. Led by the late Representatives Patsy T. Mink and Edith Green, Congress established a principle we often take for granted today—the prohibition of sex discrimination in any federally funded educational program. The results are astounding.

In 1972, only 9 percent of JDs were earned by women. Today women earn almost half of all law degrees. In fact, I am one of the many women able to go to law school because of Title IX. The story is similar for MDs and PhDs.

There are also, of course, the athletic opportunities. Here too, the change from 1972 to 2007 is astounding. Today, college athletic opportunities abound for young women. And the recent surge in women's professional sports teams could not have happened without the dramatic increase in women playing college sports.

These successes—both academic and athletic—are worth celebrating, as are the women who came before us here on the House floor as leaders of the Title IX movement. In 2002, after Representative Patsy T. Mink passed away, Chairman MILLER introduced a bill that named Title IX the “Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.” I have a picture of Patsy hanging in my office. She is an inspiration to me. And I know that if she were here today she would remind us that our work is not finished.

There are many problems still to be addressed. Women continue to face substantial barriers, especially in high wage fields such as science, technology, engineering and math. Sexual harassment remains pervasive in schools and on college campuses. Women and girls' sports teams still do not receive an equal share of resources.

Title IX is as necessary today as it was in 1972.

I am pleased to have over 100 original cosponsors on this bill, including Speaker PELOSI. I urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Title IX's successes and in

recognizing the work still to be done in our march toward equal educational opportunities.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLEDO SYMPHONY CEO ROBERT BELL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Toledo Symphony's own Robert Bell, celebrating his 50th anniversary season. The Toledo Symphony will formally recognize his remarkable achievement on May 22, 2007.

Robert Bell joined the Toledo Symphony in 1956. In his five decades with the symphony he has performed as a percussionist, principal timpanist and teacher. He has been the orchestra's personnel manager, managing director, and in his last decade has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Toledo Orchestra Association since 1997. The hallmark of his tenure is the design and development of a “music organization characterized by shared ownership.” The Andrew F. Mellon Foundation described our symphony in 2005 as “a remarkable organization that is approaching its evolution with a deep understanding of the community in which it operates . . . the Toledo Symphony is embedded in its community like no other American orchestra.” Robert Bell's innovations and creative style can be credited for this high praise.

Partnerships Mr. Bell pursued with not only the Mellon Foundation, but also with the Stranahan Foundation and the Owens-Illinois Charitable Foundation have brought a financial stability to the symphony which now operates with a six million dollar budget. At the same time, Mr. Bell's efforts have led to a fourteen million dollar endowment fund which continues to grow. Its financial footing has enabled the symphony to draw talented musicians worldwide for its 60 positions and additional guest artists.

At his heart both musician and teacher, the Musicians in Action initiative was developed under Mr. Bell's tutelage. Through it, the symphony presents concerts especially for young people at 300 schools throughout the region. Annually, about 100,000 children benefit. The Community Music Lessons program offers group music lessons for underserved and needy students, fostering a talent these youngsters may have no other opportunity to develop. Music in Our Schools matches professional musicians with high school musicians for one-on-one coaching, rehearsals, and performances.

It has been said that without art civilization is lost. Robert Bell has dedicated his life to taking our civilization to new heights, helping us reach our potential individually and in community. His gift has been a soaring spirit of music and his legacy will be a symphony performing for decades beyond his own half century of service. For his time and talent, passion and inspiration, we are most grateful. I know I join with our entire community in offering congratulations to Robert Bell on his fiftieth anniversary season.

ON INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS AND INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS EXPANSION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a revised bill to designate as wilderness most of the lands within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to expand the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative MUSGRAVE, and an identical measure is being introduced in the other body by Colorado's two Senators. Over a period of months, we have worked together to develop this bipartisan legislation that will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding well over 200,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The wilderness designation for the park will cover some 94 percent of the park, including Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammelled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of the Park are included in the wilderness that would be designated by this bill. At the same time, the wilderness boundaries have been drawn so as to allow continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services. In addition, specific provisions are included to assure that there will be no adverse effects on continued use of existing water facilities.

The lands designated as wilderness will become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established by the Wilderness Act and will be managed in accordance with that Act and the provisions of the bill. The bill's provisions amplify this by specifying that—(1) no new reclamation projects will be allowed in the wilderness area; (2) nothing in the bill will create a “buffer zone” around the wilderness and that non-wilderness activities visible or audible from within the wilderness will not be prohibited; (3) the National Park Service can act to control fire, insects, and diseases, including use of mechanical tools within the wilderness; and (4) nothing in the bill will reduce or restrict the current authority of the National Park Service to manage the Park's lands and resources.

The bill is similar to measures previously introduced by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs (as well as others introduced before that), and ones I introduced in the 107th, 108th, and 109th Congress. However, it does include a number of adjustments and refinements that reflect discussion within the Colorado delegation in Congress and with interested parties in Colorado.

Like H.R. 4935 of the 109th Congress, the new bill includes designation of wilderness designation of more than 700 acres in the Twin Sisters area south of Estes Park. These lands were acquired by the United States and

made part of the park after submission to Congress of the original wilderness recommendation for the park in the 1970s, and so were not included in that recommendation. They are lands of a wilderness character and their designation will not conflict with any current uses. On the west side, the town of Grand Lake and Grand County requested that about 650 acres inward from the Park boundary around the town be omitted from the wilderness designation in order to allow the Park to respond to potential forest fire threats. As was the case previously, this bill accommodates that request.

Also like that previous measure, the bill responds to the request of the Town of Grand Lake, Grand County and the Headwaters Trails Alliance (a group composed of local communities in Grand County that seeks to establish opportunities for mountain biking) and the International Mountain Bicycling Association to omit from wilderness designation an area along the western park boundary, running south along Lake Granby from the Town to the park's southern boundary. This will allow the National Park Service to retain the option of authorizing construction of a possible future mountain bike route within this part of the park. Similarly, the bill would expand the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area by 1,000 acres in the area south of the park and north of Lake Granby. The lands involved are currently managed as part of the Arapaho National Recreation Area, which would accordingly be reduced by about 1,000 acres.

As did the previous bill, this bill includes a section that will authorize the National Park Service to lease an 11-acre property (the Leiffer tract) that was donated to the National Park Service in 1977. Located outside the park's boundaries, it has two buildings, including a house that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park Service would like to have the option of leasing it, but current law allows that only for "property administered . . . as part of the National Park System," and this property does not qualify. The bill would allow the Park Service to lease the property as if it were located inside or contiguous to the park.

Also like previous measures, the bill addresses the question of possible impacts on water rights—something that can be a primary point of contention in Congressional debates over designating wilderness areas. It reflects the legal reality that it has long been recognized under the laws of the United States and Colorado, including a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive Federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself. And it reflects the geographic reality that the park sits astride the continental divide, meaning there's no higher land around from which streams flow into the park, and thus there is no possibility of any diversion of water occurring upstream from the park. In recognition of these legal and practical realities, the bill includes a finding that because the park already has these extensive reserved rights to water, there is no need for any additional reservation or appropriation of such right, and an explicit disclaimer that the bill effects any such reservation.

New provisions in this bill deal with the Grand River Ditch, created before Rocky Mountain National Park was established and partly located within the park. The owners of

the ditch are currently working to conclude an agreement with the National Park Service with respect to operation and maintenance of the portion of the ditch within the park, and the bill provides that after conclusion of this agreement the strict liability standard of the Park Resources Protection Act (which now applies to any damage to park resources) will not apply so long as the ditch is operated and maintained in accordance with the agreement. The owners of the ditch would remain liable for damage to park resources caused by negligence or intentional acts, and the bill specifies that it will not limit or otherwise affect the liability of any individual or entity for damages to, loss of, or injury to any park resource resulting from any cause of event occurring before the bill's enactment. In addition, the bill specifies that its enactment will not restrict or otherwise affect any activity relating to the monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or use of the ditch that was authorized or approved by the National Park Service as of the date of the bill's enactment. And the bill also provides that use of water transported by the ditch for a main purpose (or main purposes) other than irrigation will not terminate or adversely affect the ditch's right-of-way.

Madam Speaker, the matters dealt with in this bill have a long history. The wilderness designations are based on National Park Service recommendations presented to Congress by President Richard Nixon. That they have not been acted on before this reflects the difficult history of wilderness legislation. One Colorado statewide wilderness bill was enacted in 1980, but it took more than a decade before the Colorado delegation and the Congress were finally able, in 1993, to pass a second statewide national forest wilderness bill. Since then, action has been completed on bills designating wilderness in the Spanish Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest as well as in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Gunnison Gorge, the Black Ridge portion of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, and the James Peak area of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests.

We now need to continue making progress by providing wilderness designations for other deserving lands in Colorado, including lands that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. And the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt with in this bill.

Lands covered by the bill are currently being managed protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will never be roads, visitor facilities, or other manmade features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains. This is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As nearby land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park's backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado's landscape. Further, the park's popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development within the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year as

does our first national park. At the same time, designating these carefully selected portions of Rocky Mountain as wilderness will make other areas, now restricted under interim wilderness protection management, available for overdue improvements to park roads and visitor facilities.

In summary, Madam Speaker, this bill will protect some of our Nation's finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. It is bipartisan and will affirm the commitment of all Coloradans to preserving the features that make our State such a remarkable place to live. So, I think it deserves prompt enactment. For the information of our colleagues I am attaching a summary of the legislation:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS BILL SUMMARY

Wilderness Designation.—The bill designates as wilderness approximately 249,339 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado.

Wilderness Management.—The lands designated as wilderness become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established by the Wilderness Act and will be managed in accordance with that Act and the provisions of the bill. The bill's provisions amplify this by specifying that—

(1) No new reclamation projects will be allowed in the wilderness area; (2) Nothing in the bill will create a "buffer zone" around the wilderness and that non-wilderness activities visible or audible from within the wilderness will not be prohibited; (3) The National Park Service can act to control fire, insects, and diseases, including use of mechanical tools within the wilderness; and (4) Nothing in the bill will reduce or restrict the current authority of the National Park Service to manage the Park's lands and resources.

Potential Wilderness.—Specified lands within the Park not now eligible for wilderness designation because they are being used for purposes inconsistent with such designation will be designated as wilderness when those uses end.

Wilderness Exclusions.—Specified lands within the Park are excluded from the wilderness designation and from the category of "potential wilderness." These lands include—(1) lands occupied by the Grand River Ditch and the lands 200 feet on each side of the ditch; (2) lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir and the Inlet Ditch from North St. Vrain Creek; (3) lands owned by the Vincentsen-Harms Trust; and (4) lands adjoining Grand Lake in an area called the "East Short Trail Area" discussed below.

Water Rights.—The bill includes findings about Colorado state court decisions holding that the Park already has existing sufficient water rights and that there is no need for the Federal Government to reserve or appropriate further water rights to fulfill the purposes of the wilderness designation; and the bill states that neither it nor any action taken out pursuant to it will constitute an express or implied reservation of water or water rights for any purpose.

Grand River Ditch.—The bill provides that—(1) lands occupied by the Grand River Ditch and the lands 200 feet on each side of the ditch are excluded from wilderness; (2) upon conclusion of an agreement between the National Park Service and the ditch's owners on operations and maintenance of the Grand River Ditch, the strict liability standard of the Park Resources Protection Act (which now applies to any damage to park resources) will not apply so long as the ditch is

operated and maintained in accordance with the agreement. The owners of the ditch would remain liable for damage to park resources caused by negligence or intentional acts; (3) the bill will not affect any liability for damage to park resources occurring before the bill's enactment; (4) the bill will not restrict any activity related to monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or use of the ditch that was authorized or approved by the National Park Service as of the date of the bill's enactment; and (5) use of water carried by the ditch for a purpose other than irrigation will not adversely affect the ditch's right-of-way.

Colorado-Big Thompson Project.—The bill includes provisions specifying that its enactment will not restrict any activity related to monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or use of the project's facilities that were allowed as of the date of the bill's enactment or prohibit or restrict the conveyance of water through the Alva B. Adams Tunnel for any purpose.

East Shore Trail.—The bill requires the National Park Service to identify an alignment for a bicycle trail within the "East Shore Trail Area" that is excluded from the wilderness. The Park Service will decide whether to authorize construction of the trail and until construction is authorized, lands in the "East Shore Trail Area" will continue to be managed to maintain the option of its being designated as wilderness in the future.

Indian Peaks Wilderness and Arapaho Recreation Area.—The bill adjusts the boundaries of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Arapaho National Recreation Area so as to reduce the recreation area by about 1,000 acres and increase the wilderness by about 1,000 acres.

Leiffer Tract Lease Authority.—The bill allows the National Park Service to lease the "Leiffer tract," a parcel of Federal land located outside the Park's boundary but managed by the National Park Service that includes an historic cabin and several other buildings. Any lease would be under an existing law that requires leased property to be used for activities consistent with the purposes of the Park and compatible with National Park Service programs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 14, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 1124, H. Res. 223, and H. Res. 385.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 342 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 343 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 223, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 344 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 385, recognizing National Americorps Week, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MICHAEL D. THOMAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. Thomas, who was killed on April 27, 2007 in Hirat Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Michael was a sniper, a weapons sergeant and a combat medic assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC, and was killed when his unit came under rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Staff Sergeant Thomas personally but by all accounts he was a dedicated family man who was devoted to serving his country. He grew up in Seffner, FL, and joined the military police in 1991, serving in Somalia and in Korea. After already having served in the military police for 13 years and with only 3½ years until he could retire, he volunteered to be a Green Beret. At 34, Michael was one of the oldest in his unit, which earned him the nickname "Gramps."

Michael was a highly decorated soldier. His awards and commendations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Michael was an avid Tampa Bay Buccaneer fan who visited the team's training camp whenever he could. I've been told that he decorated his Fort Bragg room with Buccaneer memorabilia, including signed footballs and helmets. He was also an accomplished guitarist who liked watching movies and going for long walks with his wife, Teresa.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Michael's family. He leaves behind his wife, Teresa, his children, Diana and Craig, his sisters, Krista and Cassie, his brother, Jaye, his granddaughter, Alexis, and his parents, Debbie and Robert Kirkpatrick. May God bless the Thomas family and continue to watch over the country that Staff Sergeant Thomas so loved. We shall never forget him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present on the House floor on Monday, May 14 for recorded votes because illness prevented timely travel.

However, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1124; a bill to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999; "aye" on H. Res. 223, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and "aye" on

H. Res. 385, a bill recognizing National AmeriCorps Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, because of illness, I was not present for votes on May 14. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted had I been here: Rollcall No. 342 on H.R. 1124, I would have voted "yea"; Rollcall No. 343 on H. Res. 223, I would have voted "yea"; Rollcall No. 344 on H. Res. 385, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF V. LANE RAWLINS
AND HIS SERVICE TO WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize V. Lane Rawlins for his 7 years of leadership as the ninth president of Washington State University (WSU). President Rawlins used those 7 years to build a focused direction for the University, linking world-class research with outstanding undergraduate education.

Part of this world-class research has come from the Agriculture Research Service facility at Johnson Hall, a project that I am proud to have worked on with President Rawlins. This facility provides a place for federal and state research scientists to work together with the academic community in support of technology-based research programs in wheat, barley, and grain legumes.

Providing quality education is key to increasing America's competitiveness and creating a skilled, 21st century workforce. One of my first acts in Congress was to introduce legislation that would reauthorize and strengthen the WWAMI program. I applaud President Rawlins for his support of this important program that recruits and trains primary care doctors to practice in underserved areas like the rural communities of Eastern Washington.

President Rawlins has made it a priority to develop Washington State University campuses statewide. In particular, the Nursing Building at Washington State University Spokane will allow students involved in the nursing and dental programs at WSU to start their first year of training in Spokane and participate in the WWAMI program.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Rawlins for his outstanding work as the ninth president of Washington State University. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking President V. Lane Rawlins for his years of service to the University and the Eastern Washington community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARNOLD SHENOFSKY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Arnold Shenofsky of Toledo, Ohio. Arnie passed from this life at the age of 92 on March 31, 2007, leaving a legacy of love and friendship to many and rejoining his wife Jessica.

Coming to Toledo as a toddler, Arnie was a lifelong resident. He went to work at the former Willys Overland Jeep plant during World War II, and went on to the United Auto Workers International Union staff in 1951. Of note, he never missed a union convention beginning in 1941.

More than a labor leader, Arnie was an accomplished accordion player and performed in various events throughout the United States and Canada, including each of those UAW conventions. His music was appreciated, but children knew him best as Uncle Arnie the clown. He willingly gave of his talents as both accordionist and clown to all sorts of charitable causes, putting a smile on the face of everyone he met. A family man and friend of the neighborhood at heart, it is the measure of the man that all who knew him were fond of him.

He was beloved by his family and thousands in our community. The festive mood set by his joyous music, tens of thousands of balloon animals lovingly given to children, endless gifts given to strangers and friends alike, demonstrated an extraordinarily kind heart that shone through his sparkling eyes and effervescent smile. His spirit lifted every occasion and he gave and gave and gave. Arnie Shenofsky helped define Toledo as a caring community. It was my privilege to know him and witness firsthand how his presence lent splendor to every event, large and small. Many times, he chose not to speak but to let you know what he was feeling through his music. How fortunate we have been that he shared his gifts of the heart with us for nine decades.

Through the decades of his life Arnold Shenofsky sought to always be a helper, a healer, a friend to young and old alike. He was the same person with both notables and neighbors, and was truly beloved by his family. His sisters, brothers, and children and their families have mourned their loss even as they celebrate a life well lived. They carry his flame in their hearts, always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, in reviewing the formal record of rollcall 209, the vote on the Kilpatrick substitute to H. Con. Res. 99, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2008, I find I am recorded as having voted "yes." However, I had intended to vote "no," and my recollection is that I did vote "no."

TRIBUTE TO JERRY BERRY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Jerry Berry of Success, Arkansas, a fine businessman, farmer, friend and devoted family member who spent his entire life serving his community and making others happy.

Jerry was born November 29, 1939, in Success, AR, and lived there his entire life. In 1969, he opened Success Grain Inc., and it has been a family owned business its entire time in operation. In addition to running the family business, Jerry served as mayor of Success, AR, for 12 years. Some of his biggest accomplishments during his time include building a new playground and fire department, installing a new sewer system and paving all of the roads in the city.

Jerry was a man of true character. He was the type of friend that would rush to help you regardless of the time of day or circumstance because he genuinely cared about people. Jerry never had a bad day—he was always upbeat and would put the needs of others before himself because he was truly devoted to helping people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jerry Berry and celebrating his lifetime of achievements. Jerry was a loyal friend to me and although I am saddened by this loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship we shared together. He will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a genuine friend and a great American.

HONORING DR. MURIEL PETIONI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the great accomplishments of one of this Nation's most accomplished community activists and physicians, Dr. Muriel Marjorie Petioni.

Dr. Petioni has been a role model for all women and is especially beloved in my Congressional District. Born on January 1, 1914, in Trinidad, young Petioni immigrated to the U.S. in 1919, settling with her family in New York City, where her father soon became a prominent Harlem physician and activists in the Caribbean nationalist movement. She followed her father and other relatives into the medical field, working locally at Harlem Hospital after she graduated from Howard University's School of Medicine in 1937.

Her community and its residents have never been far from Dr. Petioni's mind. After a short break during the 1940s to get married and start a family, she returned to the medical profession in 1950, setting up her practice in the same office that her father had decades earlier. She maintained that practice for over 40 years, working diligently to ensure that hard-working residents and their families received the proper attention they deserved. When Harlem Hospital stumbled on financial difficulties in the 1980s, she founded the Friends of Har-

lem Hospital Center to raise private funding for the institution.

Dr. Petioni has also been a tireless educator, working hard to open up the doors of college and medical school to all underrepresented groups, especially women and African Americans. In 1974, she founded the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society for Women, a professional association of black women physicians. Named after the first African American female doctor, the organization provides institutional support for students and its members. Dr. Petioni has also worked with the Coalition of 100 Black Women to develop mentorship programs to encourage and guide young black women into the medical field.

Dr. Petioni's efforts have also led to her involvement with local government officials to ensure equal access to healthcare. She served for 30 years as a school physician for Central Harlem for the New York City Department of Health and as supervising physician for East and Central Harlem from 1980–1984. Today, Petioni is on the board of a number of non-profit institutions and government agencies, including the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, the Columbia School of Social Work, the Harlem Council of Elders, and the New York and Harlem branches of the American Cancer Society.

Numerous organizations and institutions have deservedly showered Dr. Petioni with awards and other honors. The venerable National Medical Association, which has named their annual Women in Medicine Luncheon after her. This May, New York's Barnard College is bestowing her with The Barnard Medal of Distinction, the school's highest award, for her "service to the Harlem community as a physician, community activist and philanthropist for over 70 years."

It is great to see such a good friend receive the accolades she so rightly deserves for the years of service that she has given to our community and Nation. Going strong at 93 years of age, she continues to be a trailblazer and an inspiration, a New Year's Day gift to us all that has touched the lives of countless children and families.

TAIWAN'S BID TO JOIN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I spoke recently in support of Taiwan's bid to join the World Health Organization.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that Taiwan has a world-class health care system and is willing and able to make meaningful contributions to the WHO's efforts, Chinese pressure to block Taiwan's efforts once again triumphed over fairness and common sense.

President Chen recently penned an editorial that was printed in the Washington Post that I would like to commend to my colleagues. In the piece, President Chen makes an eloquent and indisputable case for why Taiwan deserves membership in this and other international organizations.

I hope my colleagues will take the time to read the editorial, and to support Taiwan's future endeavors to contribute to international organizations like the WHO.

[From the Washington Post, May 11, 2007]

THE SHUNNING OF A STATE

(By Chen Shui-bian)

In recent years the outbreak and spread of avian flu has brought illness, death and economic peril to countries in Asia and elsewhere. Memories of the fear, pain and suffering that accompanied the 2003 SARS outbreak—after failed coverups by the Chinese government—are still vivid in many places. While disease heeds no national borders, Taiwan has had to fight pandemics without help from the World Health Organization—a humanitarian agency that is supposed to serve all humankind.

Taiwan is not a member of the WHO, nor is it an observer at the World Health Assembly (WHA)—unlike the Palestinian Authority or the Malta Order of Chivalry. But under mounting international pressure prompted by fear of an avian flu pandemic, China was persuaded in 2005 to consent, in principle, to Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO conferences focusing on that threat. China conceded after demanding that the WHO secretariat sign a secret memorandum of understanding. As a result, Taiwan's participation in the WHO is subject to China's approval, even for technical meetings. Such participation is minimal rather than meaningful.

It is improper and unprecedented for an international humanitarian organization to enter into a secret pact with one of its member states, especially an authoritarian one. More important, the memorandum has been used to obstruct Taiwan's participation in WHO activities. Our representatives were unable to attend the majority of conferences they sought admission to last year. The WHO secretariat has effectively jeopardized the health of people in Taiwan and other countries.

For a decade, we have striven relentlessly to participate in the WHO, to no avail. Even our humble pursuit of "meaningful participation" has yielded little success. With 95 percent of the Taiwanese people supporting full WHO membership, I must act upon the will of my people as a democratically elected president.

On April 11, I sent a letter to the WHO formally requesting our nation's application for membership under the name "Taiwan." The secretariat responded on April 25, claiming that Taiwan is not a sovereign state and therefore is not eligible for WHO membership. This is legally and morally deplorable.

Article 3 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization stipulates: "Membership in the Organization shall be open to all States," while Article 6 provides that states such as Taiwan that are not members of the United Nations "may apply to become Members and shall be admitted as Members when their application has been approved by a simple majority vote of the Health Assembly." Rule 115 of the WHA Rules of Procedure stipulates that "Applications made by a State for admission to membership . . . shall . . . be addressed to the Director-General and shall be transmitted immediately" to WHO members.

Clearly, the authority to determine whether Taiwan is eligible for admission to the WHO belongs to its members, many of which have diplomatic relations with Taiwan and cannot be co-opted by any individual or administrative office.

When East Germany applied for WHO membership in 1968, many questioned its sovereignty and the legitimacy of its government. But East Germany's application was circulated, and although it was voted down that year, it was approved in 1973.

Taiwan, formally known as the Republic of China, is indisputably a sovereign state, satisfying all of the criteria cited in Article 1 of

the Montevideo Convention on the Duties and Obligations of States: It has a permanent population, a defined territory, a functional government and the capacity to conduct relations with other states. It also has its own internationally traded currency and issues its own passport, honored by virtually all other nations.

Another broadly affirmed criterion for recognizing the legitimacy of a state is the principle, enunciated in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that the sovereignty a state exercises should be based on the will of the people. A truly "sovereign" state, in other words, is free and democratic. We find no better words to describe Taiwan.

Ultimately, the question of Taiwan's participation in the WHO is a moral one. The systematic shunning of Taiwan is unconscionable not only because it compromises the health of our 23 million people but also because it denies the world the benefit of our abundant public health and technical resources. Taiwan's public and private sectors have donated more than \$450 million in medical and humanitarian aid to more than 90 countries over the past 10 years.

We in Taiwan are grateful that many governments and legislative bodies such as the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament have supported our bid for observer status in the WHA. As humankind seeks to control global pandemics, victory will require collaboration that is not restricted by political obfuscation or subject to discriminatory picking and choosing of participants. We must not allow an all-but-one scenario to undermine our common mission—health for all.

H.R. 2922, THE PAY VETERANS FIRST ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Pay Veterans First Act (H.R. 2922), introduced by my colleague from New York, Mr. HALL.

When most people think of a "bonus," they think of a financial incentive given to reward exceptional work done above and beyond the call of duty. It is typically recognition of the long and countless hours of hard work put in to get the job done. It is something you earn, not something you receive in return for lackluster performance.

Yet, recently the Associated Press reported that top officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs received a total of \$3.8 million in bonuses, with some individuals receiving as much as \$33,000, or 20 percent of their annual salary. While these officials received these performance based rewards, the VA was facing a nearly \$1 billion budgetary shortfall and the national backlog for veterans' claims is about 177 days on average. There are very few veterans in eastern Connecticut or across the country who would agree that this data demonstrates "exceptional work" on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

It is appalling that the failing performance of top VA officials would be rewarded so handsomely while the quality of care for our Nation's veterans suffers. The veterans of eastern Connecticut and those throughout the Nation deserve an explanation for this apparent error in judgment and disgraceful lack of leadership within the Department of Veterans Af-

fairs. I recently wrote to Secretary Jim Nicholson asking him to provide an explanation for this imbalance and look forward to his response.

There are, without a doubt, many people in veterans' health care facilities across the country working tirelessly to care for our veterans without the resources they need, let alone discretionary bonuses. The VA is strained to care for the patients they have now, and face daunting challenges to care for those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pay Veterans First Act is an important step to ensuring that the priorities and resources of the VA remain focused on where they rightfully belong: the needs of those who have served our country in uniform, and not the bureaucrats in Washington.

I applaud Mr. HALL of New York for leading this important effort and urge my colleagues to support this bill on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD L. BRIGHAM

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero who proudly served our country in World War II. Howard L. Brigham was born in 1925 in Denver, Colorado, the oldest of eight children. After serving our country in the war, Howard served Colorado for 37 years as an educator and administrator.

In December of 1942, one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Howard joined the United States Navy at the young age of 17. He was unable to be present for his own high school graduation. Howard manned a 20 millimeter gun and served as a deck boss's mate on the Seaplane Tender, USS *Matagorda*. Howard served primarily in the Atlantic theater, but he also spent time in the South Pacific. He was briefly in port in Iceland, England, Wales, North Africa, and Brazil. He was away from his family the entire 4 years of the war and spent most of that time at sea. Howard's father passed away during this time and he was unable to leave his duties to attend the funeral. Seaman 2nd Class Brigham was awarded the American Theater Medal, the European Theater Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Following his heroic service, Mr. Brigham attended the University of Denver earning both a bachelors and a masters degree in education. For the next 37 years he served as a teacher, counselor, and principal in the Denver Public School system and the Poudre School System in Fort Collins. He and his wife Jeanie will celebrate 60 years of marriage in June of this year. Together they raised three children, Jerry Brigham of Broomfield, and Randy Brigham and Kay Rich of Sterling.

We are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country whose citizens willingly volunteer to put themselves in harm's way to defend and protect our great Nation.

I am proud to honor Mr. Brigham for his dedicated service to our Nation. Howard is an

American hero who left his home to defend our Nation, and then returned home to be a valued member of his community, showing his children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. Howard is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. May God bless Mr. Brigham and his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God continue to bless America.

HONORING DR. LEONARD J. KLAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today together with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Dr. Leonard Klay and recognize his contributions to medicine in Sonoma County and the State of California. The Sonoma County Medical Association is taking this opportunity to recognize Dr. Klay's ongoing commitment to organized, high-quality medical service for the community of Sonoma County.

Dr. Klay grew up and completed high school in southern California before receiving his bachelor's degree with distinction from Stanford University in 1959. He continued at Stanford, graduating from medical school in 1962 and going on to complete his internship and residency in southern California. He served as a major in the U.S. Army from 1967–1970 during which time he served overseas.

After beginning his practice with the Permanente Group in 1970 as an OB/GYN, Dr. Klay moved to private practice in 1971 where he remained for 29 years, finally moving to the Sutter OB/GYN Medical Group in 2000. He retired in 2004, but continues to assist part-time as an obstetric surgeon. For the last 35 years he has generously given his time to assist at the Sonoma County Family Planning Clinic, and he remains there as a valued volunteer. In 1999 he joined the staff at the Santa Rosa Community Hospital as a Clinical Professor where he helps train a new generation of doctors.

Dr. Klay has made numerous contributions to the medical profession as an outspoken leader in Sonoma County and around the State. He has twice been elected president of the Sonoma County Medical Association, and has served on a wide variety of committees within that body. Active in the California Medical Association for 36 years, he has served as a delegate and Tenth District Chair. He has served on a number of county commissions focused on perinatal substance abuse, and has worked to stabilize healthcare in Sonoma County through participation as a trustee or director on numerous boards.

Dr. Klay has been particularly active in his community in fighting to implement public smoking bans, and reduce tobacco use by raising the smoking age. His endeavors in this direction were successful when the city of Healdsburg passed that ban. He continues to advocate against smoking in other forums and is on the county's Tobacco Coalition.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Dr. Leonard Klay for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly

to improve health care and the medical profession, and he deserves our thanks.

HONORING DR. LEONARD J. KLAY,
MD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today together with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Dr. Leonard Klay and recognize his contributions to medicine in Sonoma County and the State of California. The Sonoma County Medical Association is taking this opportunity to recognize Dr. Klay's ongoing commitment to organized, high-quality medical service for the community of Sonoma County.

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SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am proud we have brought this resolution to the floor today. It is sadly fitting, as today marks the 1-year anniversary of the fatal shootings of Master Police Officer Michael E. Garbarino and Detective Vicky O. Arnel of the Fairfax County Police Department—the first two officers shot and killed in the line of duty in the department's long, distinguished history.

These local officers were shining examples of the courage and selflessness found in our law enforcement community. Their stories also illustrate the fact that personal sacrifice and danger have always been synonymous with law enforcement service, beginning with New York City's Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith, who on May 17, 1792, became the first recorded police officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Today, there are 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers in the United States who continue the "quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream," a quote by President George Bush engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Each one of these officers and their families carry with them the knowledge their efforts put them in harm's way. Today, more than 56,000 are assaulted each year and every 53 hours, an officer is killed while serving the American people. September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day for police officers in all of American history when 72 officers were killed while responding to terrorist attacks.

May 15 is Peace Officers Memorial Day, a holiday created in 1961 by Congress to honor fallen law enforcement officers who dedicated their lives to protecting this country and its citizens. The flag is flown at half-staff and thousands of people visit the Memorial, which was authorized by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 and built in 1989 and currently has 17,912 names etched into the wall.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution to honor the memories of Master Police Officer Garbarino and Detective Arnel, and all the fallen heroes from the law enforcement ranks for their service and their willingness to expose themselves to danger in their pursuit of a safe community.

CONGRATULATING THE HAMMOND LADY RED DEVILS UPON WINNING THE 2007 NEW YORK STATE CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hammond Central School District's Lady Red Devils of Hammond, New York, upon winning the 2007 New York State Girls Basketball Class D Championship. This was not only Hammond's first State basketball

championship, it was also the first State basketball championship won by a Section X team.

On March 18, 2007, the Hammond Lady Red Devils, who are from my upstate New York Congressional District, won the New York State Class D Championship when they defeated the S.S. Seward Lady Spartans by a score of 52 to 51. In that game, the Lady Red Devils worked hard to overcome the Lady Spartans' leads, which were as much as 17 points at one time and 12 points at the end of the first half. In fact, S.S. Seward led by two points with 47 seconds to play before the Lady Red Devils' Brittany Kenyon, the New York State Class D MVP, made a three point shot with 15.9 seconds left in the game to give Hammond the lead and, ultimately, the victory.

The Lady Red Devils completed the 2007 season undefeated, with a record of 12 and 0. They were coached by Shawn Dack and assistant coaches Larry Hollister, Doug McQueer, and Chet Truskowski. Other team members were scorekeeper Cathy Tulley and players Whitney Atkins, Cassie Cunningham, Nicole Davidson, Aubrie Dunn, Brooke Hollister, Katlyn Hunt, Malynda Jenne, Jessica Martin, Sara Measheaw, Emily Moquin, and Sarah Sheridan. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to represent these young ladies and to have the opportunity to recognize them for their very significant accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO CECIL E. WILLIAMS,
JR.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Cecil E. Williams, Jr., a lifelong advocate and friend to Arkansas farmers. Williams, who was a West Memphis resident and longtime executive vice president of the Agriculture Council of Arkansas, passed away on April 12 at the age of 74. His death was a great loss to his community, his family, his State and this Nation.

Williams began his agricultural education at a young age on his family's cotton farm in Tyronza, AR. After serving in the U.S. Air Force as a weather observer in Alaska, he moved to Baton Rouge, LA, and enrolled at Louisiana State University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. During his final year in college, Williams met his wife Barbara. They eventually married and had three sons.

Williams took a job with the National Cotton Council and began traveling to cotton farms around the South, soliciting new members. In return for their membership, Williams kept them informed of new farm technology and

techniques that would help farmers run a more efficient and profitable business.

In the mid-1960s, Williams became the executive vice president of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas in West Memphis and served the council honorably for 37 years. Although Williams worked for the council during the day, in his free time he maintained a small family farm because he loved working the land. By maintaining the farm, he gained a firsthand perspective of the challenges Arkansas farmers faced on a day-to-day basis.

Williams' life-long commitment to farming made it easy for him to advocate on the behalf of farmers in Washington. Williams worked as a liaison, advocating for farm policies that would benefit Arkansas' agricultural community to Members of Congress. He would then return to Arkansas and use his natural gift of communication to explain the complexities of farm bills to producers, which helped them understand how the legislation would impact their business.

A devout public servant, Williams was a man of honor and compassion. On behalf of the Congress, I extend sympathies to his family and gratitude for all he did to make our community a better place. His service and friendship will be missed by all.